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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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23 JAN 1980

January 23, 1980

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary

FROM: EA - Richard Holbrooke

Harold Brown gave a full and candid briefing this morning to a carefully selected group of Congressional leaders. My impression was that the briefing was a success and that the members of Congress left impressed and satisfied.

Questions from Stennis, Javits, Nunn, Glenn, Zablocki and Ichord all suggested that, in varying degrees, they consider the information that Harold was imparting of great significance. Nobody questioned in a hostile manner the policy decisions on technology matters.

Javits and Tower both asked questions about the long-range possibilities that the Chinese might move back toward the Russians. Nunn and Glenn expressed concern over our ability to handle a military challenge by the Russians or the Vietnamese in Iran, Pakistan or Thailand.

While there was full support for the policy, I should underline the fact that Harold stressed the "step by step" and cautious approach to development of the relationship. No one in the room openly advocated an alliance with China and none of the members suggested by their comments and questions that they would be concerned if our relationship with China developed too fast. Harold reassured them fully on this point.

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RDS-3 1/23/80 (Holbrooke, Richard)

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